Migrant labour from Orissa

954. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of migrant labour from Orissa are at present leading a pathetic life at the places where they are employed;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken for the welfare of these workers;

(c) whether his Ministry has any machinery to ascertain the number of migrant labour from each State who are going outside their States for seeking jobs and whether this machinery is undertaking any welfare programmes for these migrant labour, if so, the details thereof;

(d) how many contractors in Orissa have registered their names as per existing laws to send the migrant labour outside Orissa, with details; and

(e) what action Government have taken against such persons for sending labour outside the State of Orissa without registering themselves as required under the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Whenever complaints are received about exploitation of workers, including migrant workers, the appropriate authorities are asked to take suitable action.

(b) The Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 has been enacted specifically for the protection of Inter State Migrant Labour. The protection of a number of other labour laws is also available to these workers.

(c) The Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 covers labour which is recruited by or through a contractor in one State under an agreement or other arrangement for employment in an establishment in another State. The rules framed under the Act enjoin upon the contractors and principal employers to send periodical returns which contain information, *inter-alia* about the number of migrant workers employed.

The Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 prescribes some welfare facilities for workmen. The Act is enforced by the Central and State Governments in their respective spheres as defined in the Act.

(d) and (e) There is no provision for registration of contractors. However, there is a provision in the Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 for licensing of contractors. Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

955. *[Withdrawn]*.

Release of foreign exchange for import of sugar, fertilizers etc.

956. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of foreign exchange released by the Government for heavy import of sugar, fertilizers, sulphur, amonium phosphate urea or any other fertilizer during the period from 1st January, 1985 upto December, 1985 and upto 31st January, 1986;

(b) what are the reasons for such imports; and

(c) what is its effect on the balance of trade position?